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S.W.H.
5/10/04

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 049390-5001

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| |) | Confirmation No. 2295 |
| Takaaki TERASHITA |) | |
| |) | Group Art Unit: 2615 |
| Application No. 09/263,842 |) | |
| |) | Examiner: Dorothy Wu |
| Filed: March 8, 1999 |) | |
| |) | |
| For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND |) | |
| IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS |) | |

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed after the events recited in § 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or any action that otherwise closes prosecution in the above-referenced application. Applicant submits that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS. Accordingly, no fee is due for filing this IDS.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in an Office Action issued on March 9, 2004, in a corresponding Japanese Patent Application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that any of the listed documents is material or constitutes "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents does constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

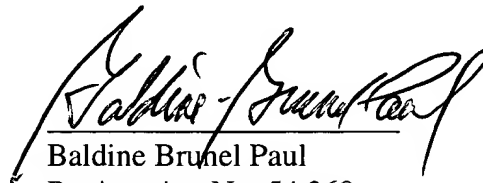
If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully Submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: April 30, 2004

By:



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